



State Senator Joseph Harrison
Senate, Statehouse
200 W. Washington
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

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JOSEPH HARRISON

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



**STATE
SENATOR
JOSEPH
HARRISON**

**INDIANA
STATEHOUSE
200 W. WASHINGTON
INDIANAPOLIS, IN
46204**

800-382-9467

S23@IN.GOV



THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOVEMBER 5, 2002 GENERAL ELECTION IS OCTOBER 7, 2002.

Voter Eligibility

You are qualified to vote in the 2002 General Election if you:

- Are a citizen of the United States
- Are at least 18 years old on or before November 5, 2002
- Reside in your precinct at least 29 days before the election in which you will be voting
- Are not currently in prison after being convicted of a crime
- Apply to register to vote at least 29 days before the election in which you will be voting, and your application is approved.

Where to Register to Vote

You may register in person at your county voter registration office or by mail.

If you need to pick up a mail-in voter registration application visit your local:

- License branch
- Public library
- Township trustee or city/town clerk-treasurer's office

You may also register to vote while applying for or renewing your driver's license and at your local public assistance, disability or unemployment compensation office.

Dear Friends:

"Terrorist attacks can shake the foundations of our biggest buildings. But they cannot touch the foundation of America," said President Bush following the terrible acts of terrorism against our country on September 11. The aftershocks of that day still echo across the country, affecting each of us on a daily basis.

As we commemorate the one-year anniversary of the attacks, we as Americans cannot forget and must stand together with the same outpouring of concern and compassion for our neighbors. Each of us needs to take time to remember the many we as a nation lost and the many who are still fighting for our beliefs and safety in the war on terrorism.

Indiana has taken great strides in making sure Hoosiers are safe and protected from possible terrorist attacks. Shortly after 9-11 Gov. Frank O'Bannon formed the Counter-Terrorism and Security Council, whose mission is to develop and implement a comprehensive state strategy to address terrorism in Indiana. The council has been working with public safety departments and agencies at all level of government to make sure they develop the best plan for our state.

The General Assembly passed House Enrolled Act 1001 of the 2002 Regular Session to help combat terrorism and protect our state. The act involves a variety of issues but some of the main points are stricter requirements for people trying to get an Indiana driver's license (refer to inside of newsletter for information on what you need to renew your license), harsher requirements on explosives and weapons of mass destruction, and stronger punishment for people who knowingly assist terrorist groups.

The federal government has also helped to protect our state by sending federal funds for homeland security. The money will be used by the Indiana's State Emergency Management Agency to purchase equipment for first responders, police, firefighters and medical workers dispatched in an emergency.

And most importantly Hoosiers themselves have helped protect our state from acts of terror, by going out and showing we are not afraid and we believe in our country, flying our flags high, looking out for one another and understanding the need for tightened security. It's each of our responsibilities to report activity that may be suspicious and make sure we pray for our mothers, fathers, sons and daughters who are fighting for our safety overseas.

Please take a moment on September 11 to remember and never forget. God Bless America.

Sincerely,

Joseph W. Harrison



SENATOR JOE HARRISON'S LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

INDIANA'S NEW AMBER ALERT LEGISLATION DESIGNED TO INCREASE CHANCES OF LOCATING ABDUCTED CHILDREN

Although infrequent, few things terrify mothers and fathers more than the thought of a stranger abducting their child. In recent months, however, child abduction cases have been brought increasingly into the media spotlight. In an effort to increase the success of locating a child when an abduction occurs, the Indiana General Assembly this past session adopted legislation to give law enforcement officials greater resources to rescue abducted children.

Arranged between Indiana's Missing Children Information Clearinghouse run by the State Police, and T.V. and radio stations around the state, the Amber Alert plan helps rescue abducted children by broadcasting vital descriptive information of the abduction case on the air quickly so the public may participate in the search.

After a law enforcement officer receives information that a stranger has kidnapped a child, the officer conducts a brief investigation to verify the abduction and to gather information that could help locate the child. After the official provides this information to the Clearinghouse, the Clearinghouse sends it to local primary stations. Broadcasters then use the Emergency Alert System, the same system that broadcasts severe weather emergencies, to pass the information on to the public.

California instituted the Amber Alert program after the kidnapping and murder of 5 year-old Samantha Runnion in Orange County. The system was implemented for the subsequent abduction of two teenage girls in southern California that resulted in the girls returning to their families alive.

Statistics show that the greatest enemy in child abduction cases is time. As the hours since an abduction grow, the child's chance of survival decreases. According to the Child Alert Foundation, 74 percent of children murdered by non-family members are killed within the first three hours after their abduction.

The Amber Alert program increases community awareness in the rare event of a stranger abduction and helps to disperse information when needed so that citizens become the eyes and ears of law enforcement.

In 1996, concerned citizens created the original Amber Alert as a tribute to nine-year-old Amber Hagerman who was kidnapped and murdered while riding her bicycle in Arlington, Texas. According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, law enforcement officials nationwide already have found 20 abducted children through the use of the plan.

Back-to-School Tips to Help Keep Hoosier Children Safe

- Be sure your child knows his or her phone number, home address, your work phone number, the number of a trusted adult, and how to contact 911 for emergencies.
- Make sure your child has enough change to make a phone call at a pay phone in an emergency.
- Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings. Tell your child to stay away from vacant lots, fields, and other places where few people are.
- Make sure he or she walks to and from school with others.
- Teach your child never talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your child doesn't know well or trust.

If your child is home alone after school:

- Set up rules for locking doors and windows and answering the door and phone.
- Make sure he or she checks in with you or a neighbor immediately after school.

source: www.ncpc.org



Indiana to mark Sept. 11 anniversary with ceremony at Statehouse

The state of Indiana will hold a ceremony at the Statehouse to mark the one year anniversary of September 11.

The governor will dedicate a monument that will be placed on the Statehouse lawn. The monument, made of Indiana limestone, is a replica of a monument to be placed at the Pentagon.

All Hoosiers are invited to join the ceremony at 11:30 a.m., September 11, on the westside of the Statehouse, Senate Ave. and Government Way.

Please come out to remember all who were lost in the terrorist attacks and to pray for those who continue to fight for our beliefs.

Proper Flag Etiquette for General Display

As 9-11 and Veterans Day approaches here are some helpful tips to keep in mind

- It is the universal custom to display the U.S. flag only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary flag staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the flag may be displayed 24 hours a day, if properly illuminated during hours of darkness.
- The flag should be raised briskly and lowered ceremoniously.
- The flag should not be displayed on days when the weather is inclement, except when it is an all-weather flag.
- No other flag or pennant should be placed above or to the right of the U.S. flag, except during church services conducted by naval chaplains at sea for personnel of the U.S. Navy. Then, the church pennant may be flown above the flag.
- When the flag of the U.S. is displayed with another flag on a wall with staffs crossed, our flag should be at the right and its staff should be in front of the other flag's staff.
- The U.S. flag should be at the center, highest point of the group when several flags from states or societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.
- When flags of states, cities, localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the U.S. flag, the latter should always be on top. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the U.S. flag should always be raised and lowered last. No other flag or pennant may be placed above or to the right of the U.S. flag.
- When the U.S. flag is displayed from a staff horizontally or at an angle as from a window sill, balcony, or building front, the union of the flag is at the top of the staff unless it is being flown at half-staff.
- If the U.S. flag is to be displayed over the middle of a street, it should be hung vertically with the union to the North in the East/West street and to the East in a North/South Street.
- Never display the U.S. flag with the union down, except as a distress signal in cases of extreme danger to life or property.
- The U.S. flag should never touch anything beneath it, such as the ground, floor, water, or merchandise.
- The U.S. flag should never be used, stored, fastened, or displayed in such a way as to allow it to be easily torn, soiled, or damaged in any way.

New BMV License Documentation Requirements

For a person renewing an Indiana driver's license please make sure you take two of the following along with you to the BMV:

- Valid Indiana driver's license or identification card
- Valid Indiana vehicle registration
- Valid Indiana vehicle title
- Current utility or credit card bill
- Current bank or loan statement
- Cancelled check name, address imprinted, submitted within 60 days of bank processing
- Insurance policy
- Federal or Indiana Tax Return (with W-2 or 1099 Form attached)
- Computer-generated pay stub with name, Social Security number or Federal ID number
- Signed affidavit from parent or legal guardian
- Marriage license or divorce decree (stamped or seal)
- Valid professional license issued by an Indiana state agency
- Valid gun permit
- BMV driver license reinstatement letter or reinstatement receipt
- US Military photo identification card
- US Military Discharge or DD214 Separation form
- Indiana County Pre-Sentence Investigation Report (stamped or seal)
- US District Court Pre-Sentence Investigation Report (stamped or seal)
- Letter from probation officer on letter-head
- Prison release form

For persons needing a license for the first time or moving from another state please visit the BMV website at www.in.gov/bmv